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General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 24 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of the welcoming message from the acting President of the Russian Federation, Mr. V. V. Putin, to the participants in the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, under item 74 of the preliminary list.

[*Signed*] S. **Labrov**

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Annex to the letter dated 24 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The President of the Russian Federation

To the participants in the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

I send my best greetings to the participants in the sixth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the first conference since the adoption of the historic decision on the indefinite extension of the Treaty.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has withstood the test of time and during its 30 year history has confirmed its role as the most important instrument for containing the threat of nuclear proliferation. Its implementation has contributed to the strengthening of regional and global stability. The Treaty has laid the foundations for an irreversible movement towards nuclear disarmament, and has diminished the risk of nuclear war.

The Russian Federation is committed to its obligations in the field of nuclear disarmament and intends to meet them further under conditions of the maintenance of strategic stability and of the system of disarmament treaties established over recent decades as the basis for further reductions and limitations of strategic offensive weapons.

As a Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and as one of its depositaries, Russia considers that the Treaty is one of the major foundations of the international security system. It is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that constitutes the main mechanism for preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, while at the same time ensuring the development of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

We attach great importance to the present Conference, which is called upon to further strengthen the Treaty and the international nuclear non-proliferation regime as a whole.

I wish the participants in the Conference every success in their work.

V. **Putin**
Acting President of the Russian Federation

19 April 2000